

House Republican Press Release

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Representative Greene Signs Petition For Special Session To Limit Eminent Domain Powers



Legislation Would Prevent Taking Property To Benefit Private Developers

Hartford, CT-State Rep. Len Greene, R-105th, has signed a petition calling for a special legislative session to limit the state's eminent domain laws that have been used to seize private property and turn it over to private developers. Republican lawmakers recently held a press conference at the State Capitol to begin their petition drive for the special session, which would enact a moratorium on any eminent domain action for commercial development purposes.

In September, the New London Development Corporation (NLDC) began evictions in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood to roust residents who challenged the taking of their property all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. On June 23, the court ruled, 5-4, that the city can seize seven middle-class homes to allow a private developer to build a hotel, conference center, offices and upscale housing.

The Republican petition drive was prompted by a lack of action by majority Democrats. Following initial circulation of the petition, majority party leaders agreed on Tuesday, October 11 to incorporate eminent domain reform in a special session called for later this month.

"I've heard from many constituents on this issue throughout past several months," said Rep. Greene. "People are concerned that government now has expanded its powers to take your property. Connecticut needs to do what 11 other states have done since the Supreme Court ruling: Revise our statutes to prevent any taking of private property for projects that economically benefit private developers. Homeowners are entitled to this type of protection."

On Tuesday, June 28, Rep. Greene voted in favor of a similar proposal that was defeated in a nearly-party line vote. The Legislature held a special session that day to complete work related to the 2005-2007 state budget.